

Secret NOGORN-NOCONTRACT

Area Briefs

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ce material must be stapled only to the tab bur INAL AND VELLOW COPY TO CABLE SECRETARIAT. REMOVE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS SET MARGIN FOR SS CHARACTERS TO A LINE, INCLUDING SPACES OG NOT EXCEED THIS LIMITATION MESSAGES ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE UNLESS A MIGHER PRECEDENCE IS MOICATED IN THE ADDRESSEE LINE. TYPE THE WORD "ALIGN" TO REGISTER HERE-- ALIGN FIRST LETTER IN THIS BOX. **OUTGOING MESSAGE** 2 OMF CONFIDENTIAL DISSEM BY: INFO: FILE CONF: PER 10 APRIL 1978.Y LATIN AMERICA BRIEF 1. CHILE: CHILEAN PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S DECISION TO ADVANCE THE TIMETABLE FOR A TRANSITION TO CEONSTITUTIIONAL RULE WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO CONTINUING INTERMEDIAL AND _ EXTERNAL PRESSURES ON HIM TO NUORMABLIZE POLITICAL LIFE IN 1.5C CHILE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED OTHER RECENT CHANGES DESIGNED TO IMPEROVE THE COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. IN A NATIONWIDE SPEECH ON 5 APRIL, PINOCHET SAID A NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BE READY BY THE END OF THE YMMEAR AND THAT A PLEBISCITE COULD BE HELD ON IT SOME TIME THEREAFTER. THIS ADVANCES BY UNFIVE YEARS THE SCHEDULE OUTLINED BY PINOCHET LAST YEAR. PINOCHET DID NOT MENTION PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND WAS VAGUE ABOUT THE OVERALL TIMING. NEVERTHELESS, HIS STATEMENT LEFT THE DOOR OPEN TO EVEN FURTHER MODIFICATIONS.

ALTHOUGH HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE

ARMED FORCES TO RETAINM THE '' ESSENCE" OF POWER, PINOCHET

SAID CIVILIANS WOULD SHARE A LARGER ROLE IN GOVERNMENT.

DATE: ORIG: UNIT: EXT:

SET MARGIN FOR 66 CHARACTERS TO A LINE INCLUDING SPACES. DO NOT SECCED THIS LIMITATION GES ARE COMMISSIED ROUTING UNLESS A MIGHER PRECEDENCE IS INDICATED IN THE ADDRESSEE. LIME TYPE THE WORD 'ALIGN" TO REGISTER HERE-ALIGN FIRST LETTER IN THIS BOX. OUTGOING MESSAGE OMF 3 CONFIDENTINAL CONF: INFO: FILE HE DID NOT ELABORATE, BUT HE MAY HAVE BEEN BIDDING FOR THE COOPERATION OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST, WHICH WAS BANNED IN MARCH BRARR 1977. THE PARTY WILL BE RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE AS LONG AS 1.5C RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY REMAIN IN FORCE. AMONG OTHER MMEASURES RAISED IN HIS SPEECH, PINOCHET OFFERED A WIDE-RANGING PROGRAM TO PARDON OR TO COMMUTE THE SENTENCES OF ALL PRISONERS CONVICTED BY MILITARY COURTS FOR VIOLATING NATIONAL SECURITY LAWS BEFORE AND AFTER THE 1973 COUP. AS MANY AS 224 PERSONS STAND TO BENEFIT IMMEDIATELY. THE RELEASES WILL ALSO CLOSE THE BOOKS FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES ON MOST CASES THAT HAVE INTERESTED HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS.

SET MARGIN FOR BY CHARACTURE TO A LINE. INCLUDING SPACES. DO NOT EXCEYD THIS LIMITATION WESTAGES ANY CUMSIDERED ROUTINE UILLESS A MISHER PRECEDENCE IS INDICATED IN THE ADDRESSEE LINE. - ALIGN FIRST LETTER IN THIS BOX. TYPE THE WORD "ALIGN" TO REGISTER HERE. **OUTGOING MESSAGE** OMF CONFIDENTIAL MELBACHANDLING HODICATOR DATE THE GROUP CITE DISSEM BY: CONF: INFO: FILE PER NR 1.5C